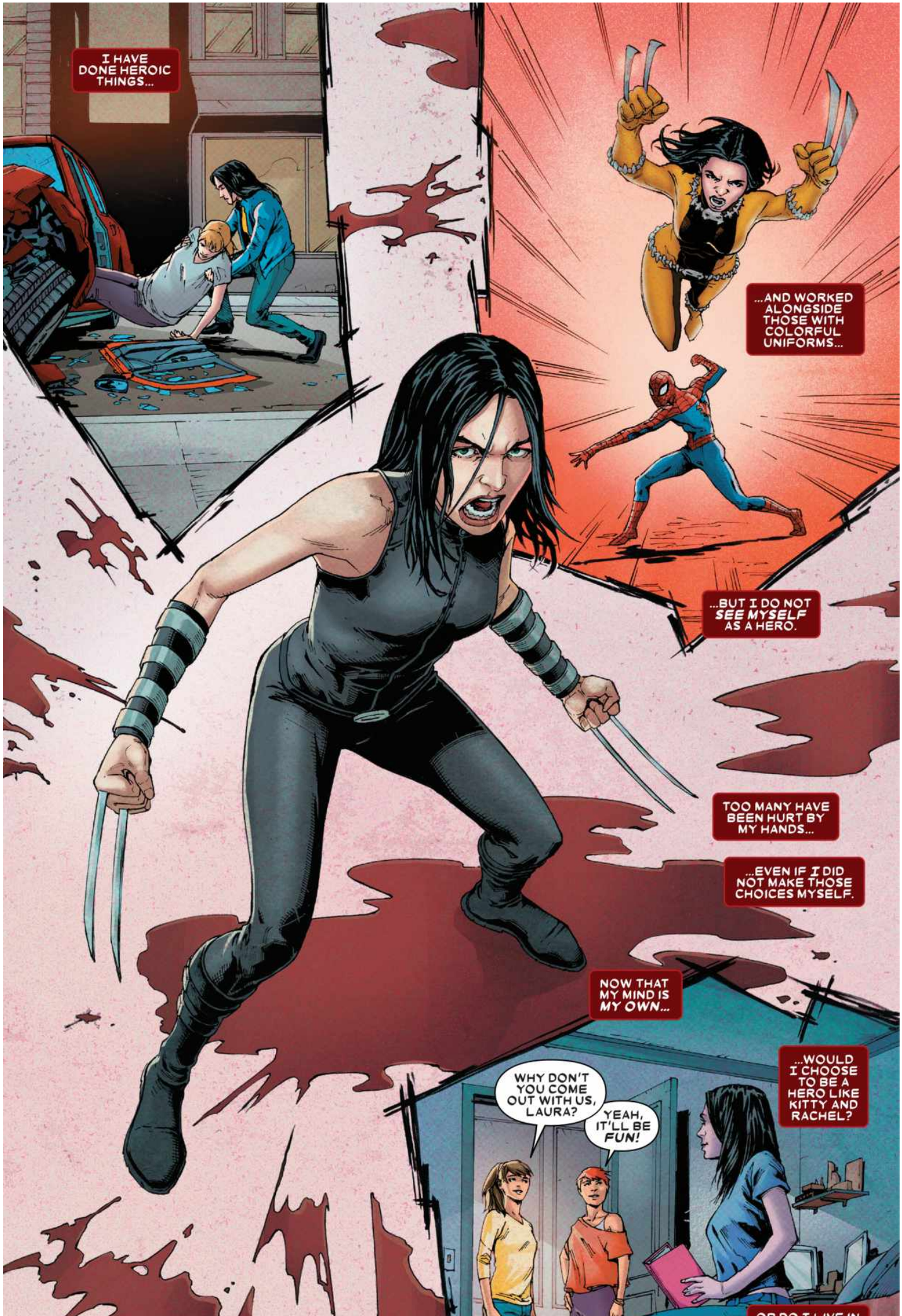
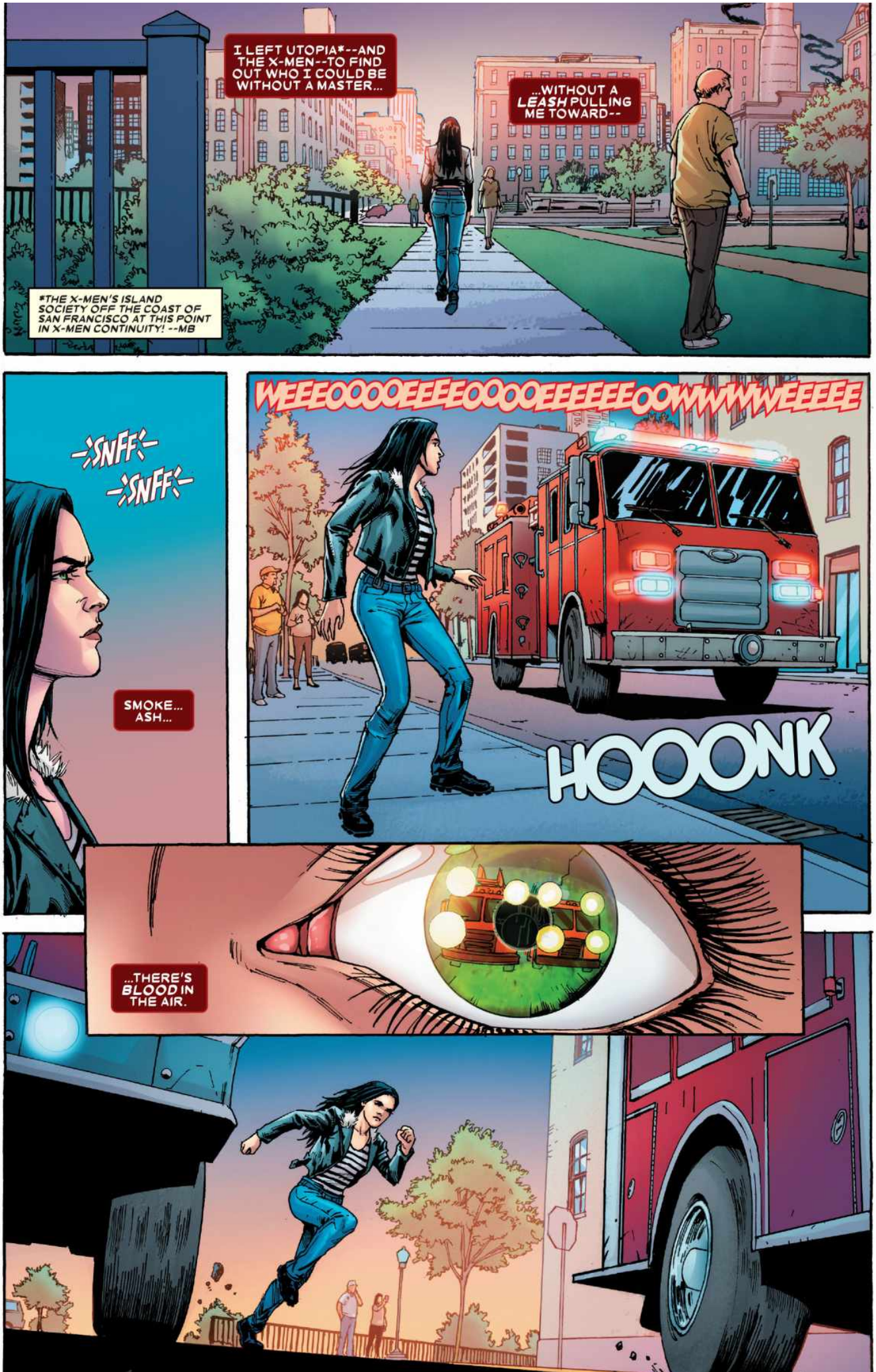
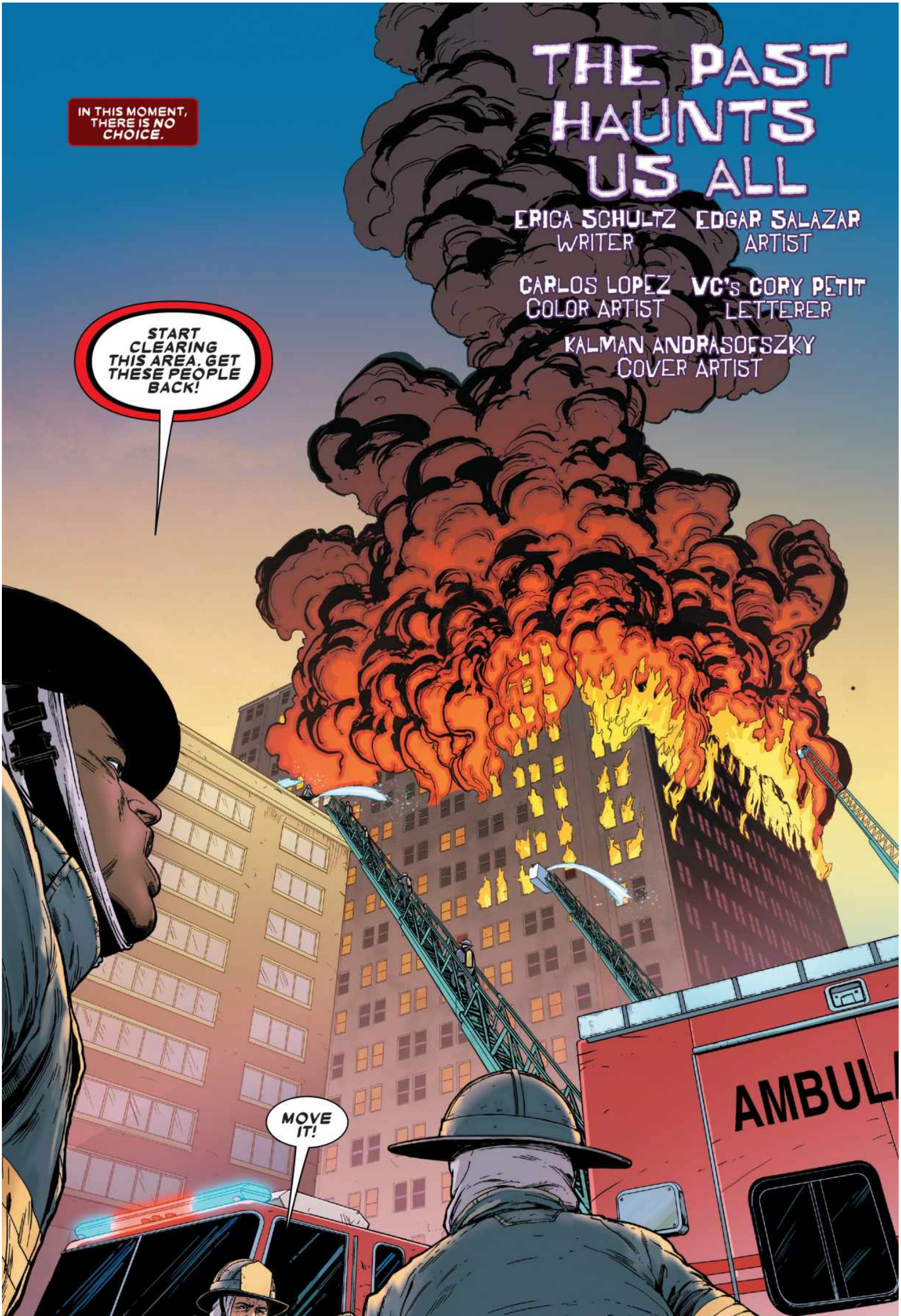
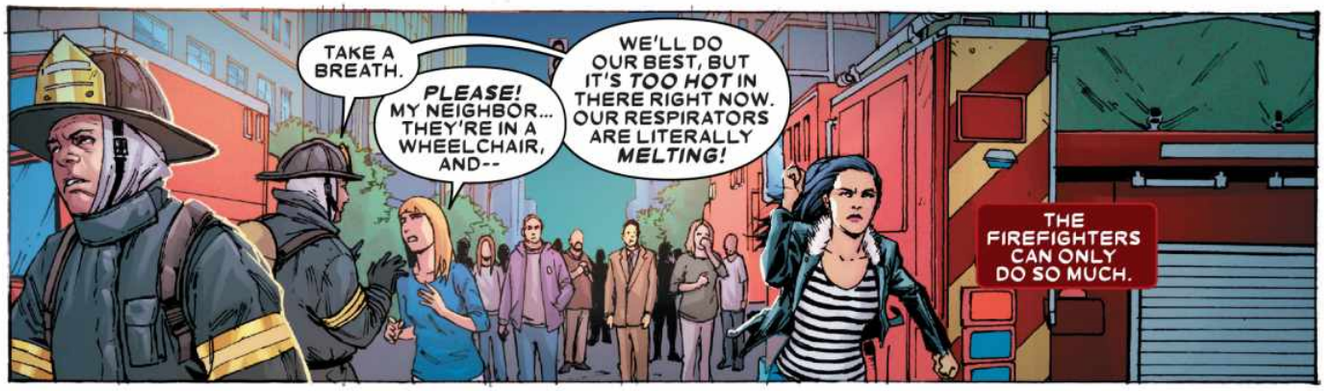
X-23
DEADLY REGENESIS
MARVEL
1
SCHULTZ
SALAZAR
LOPEZ

MINNEAPOLIS.
I HAVE BEEN SO MANY THINGS IN THIS SHORT LIFE.
AN ASSASSIN.
ONE OF THE X-MEN.
AN ASSASSIN FOR THE X-MEN.
WITH ALL I HAVE BEEN, I WONDER...
...WHAT WILL I BE NOW?

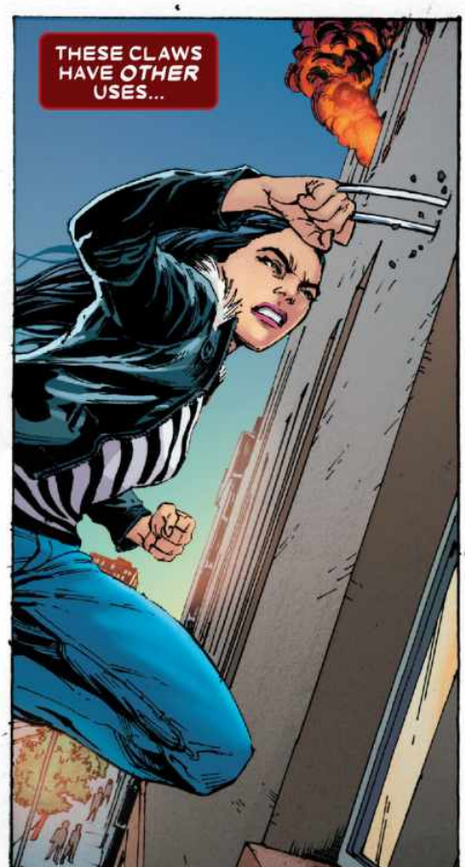

I HAVE DONE HEROIC THINGS...
...AND WORKED ALONGSIDE THOSE WITH COLORFUL UNIFORMS...
...BUT I DO NOT SEE MYSELF AS A HERO.
TOO MANY HAVE BEEN HURT BY MY HANDS...
...EVEN IF I DID NOT MAKE THOSE CHOICES MYSELF.
NOW THAT MY MIND IS MY OWN...
...WOULD I CHOOSE TO BE A HERO LIKE KITTY AND RACHEL?
WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT WITH US, LAURA?
YEAH, IT'LL BE FUN!


I LEFT UTOPIA*--AND THE X-MEN--TO FIND OUT WHO I COULD BE WITHOUT A MASTER...
...WITHOUT A LEASH PULLING ME TOWARD--
*THE X-MEN'S ISLAND SOCIETY OFF THE COAST OF SAN FRANCISCO AT THIS POINT IN X-MEN CONTINUITY! --MB
SNFF
SNFF
SMOKE... ASH...
WEEEOOOEEEEOOOEEEEEEOOWWWWEEEEE
HOOONK
...THERE'S BLOOD IN THE AIR.


IN THIS MOMENT, THERE IS NO CHOICE.
THE PAST HAUNTS US ALL
ERICA SCHULTZ WRITER
EDGAR SALAZAR ARTIST
CARLOS LOPEZ COLOR ARTIST
VC's CORY PETIT LETTERER
KALMAN ANDRASOFSZKY COVER ARTIST
START CLEARING THIS AREA. GET THESE PEOPLE BACK!
MOVE IT!
AMBUL


TAKE A BREATH.
PLEASE! MY NEIGHBOR... THEY'RE IN A WHEELCHAIR, AND--
WE'LL DO OUR BEST, BUT IT'S TOO HOT IN THERE RIGHT NOW. OUR RESPIRATORS ARE LITERALLY MELTING!
THE FIREFIGHTERS CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH.

I MUST DO WHAT THEY CANNOT.


THESE CLAWS HAVE OTHER USES...

GNYA!
...BESIDES WHAT THEY WERE BRED FOR.

I CAN SMELL SOMEONE THROUGH THE SMOKE.
THEY ARE STILL BREATHING...

...BUT JUST BARELY.
⸗KOFF KAFF⸗
⟨H-- HELP...⟩*
THEY DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
*TRANSLATED FROM SOMALI. --MULTILINGUAL MARK
⟨YOU MUST COME WITH ME. NOW.⟩
⟨BUT I ⸗KOFF⸗ CAN'T WALK. I'M SORRY...⟩
KRASH!
⟨IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.⟩
⟨HOLD ON.⟩

I WAS CREATED TO BE A *WEAPON*...

...TO DO WHAT *OTHERS* COULD NOT STOMACH...
...TO BE THE *UNTHINKABLE*.

IN ALL THAT TIME, THERE ARE SO FEW MOMENTS WHERE I KNEW PEACE...

...SO FEW TIMES WHEN THERE WERE *NO EXPECTATIONS* OF ME.

BUT THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TIMES...
...NOT WHEN THERE ARE PEOPLE IN DANGER.
WHUD

LOGAN TAUGHT ME TO DO BETTER...TO BE BETTER.
THEY NEED OXYGEN AND CANNOT WALK.
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
THANK YOU.

AND WHETHER OR NOT I HAVE AN X ON MY BELT...
...THAT WILL BE MY MISSION.

YOU DONE GOOD, KID... REAL GOOD.
OF ALL THOSE I LEFT IN UTOPIA, HE IS THE CLOSEST I HAVE TO FAMILY.
AND HE, ALONE, HAS AN INKLING OF THE STRUGGLE I FACE.

BUILDING CLEAR? OVER.
NEGATIVE! NEGATIVE! RUBIN IS STILL IN THERE. OVER.

BROOM
THIS FIRE WILL BURN THROUGH ANYTHING IT FINDS IN THESE APARTMENTS.
ONCE INNOCUOUS ITEMS ARE NOW FUEL CAUSING MORE DEVASTATION.
HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, AEROSOLS...THEY FEED THE FLAMES WITH UNPREDICTABLE RESULTS.
MOVE! MOVE!
6 NEWS
WE'RE LIVE ON THE SCENE AT THE VESPER TOWER FIRE, WHERE--
KRUNK
6 NEWS
MY GOD!
THIS MUST BE CONTROLLED OR OTHERS WILL BE HURT

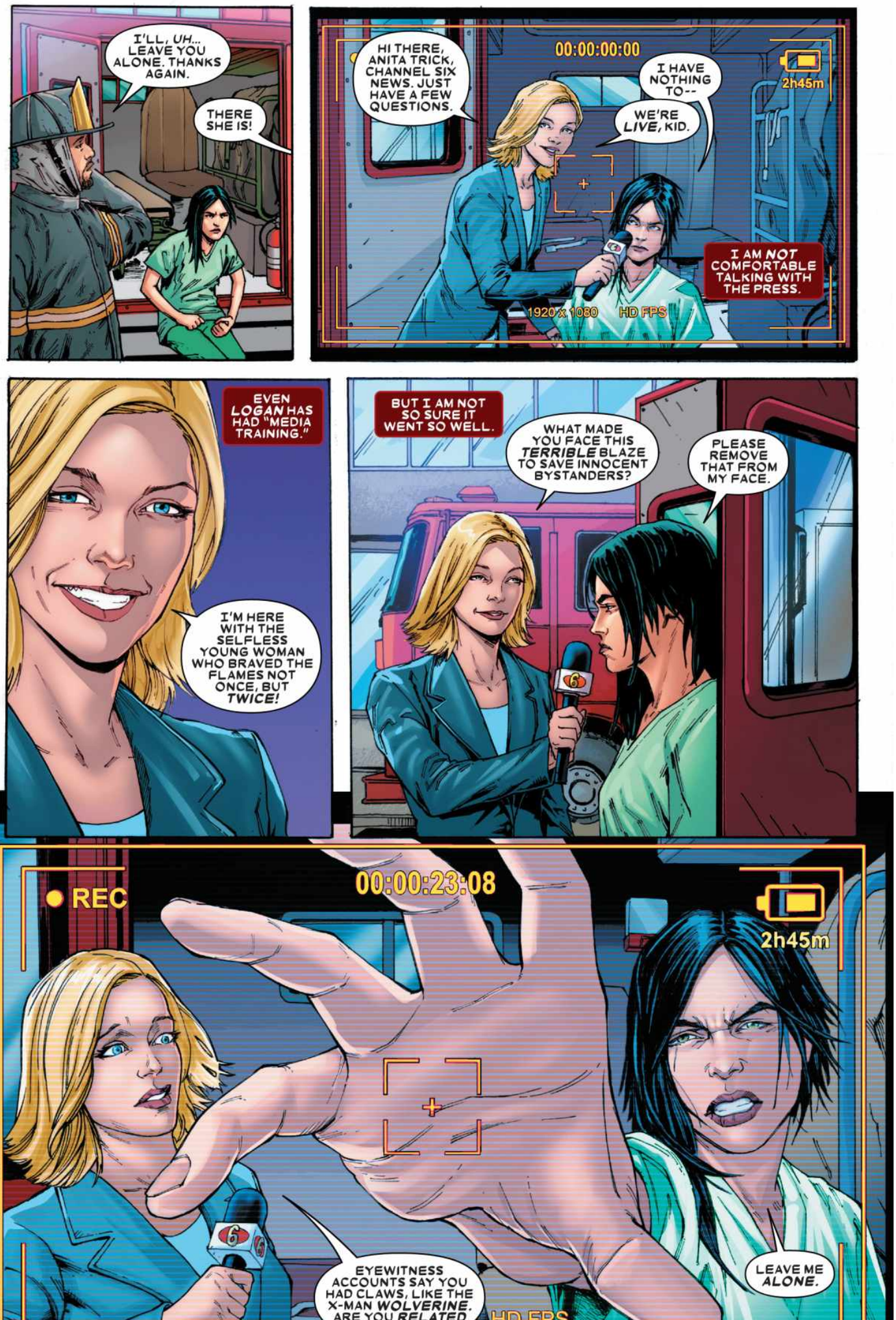
PULL BACK! PULL BACK!
WE CAN'T SEND ANYONE IN YET, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
IF IT IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR THEM, I MUST GO.
NO.
WHAT FLOOR IS RUBIN ON?
WAIT, WHAT?
I WILL FIND HIM.
LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE SOME KINDA SUPER HERO, BUT--
SIXTH FLOOR!

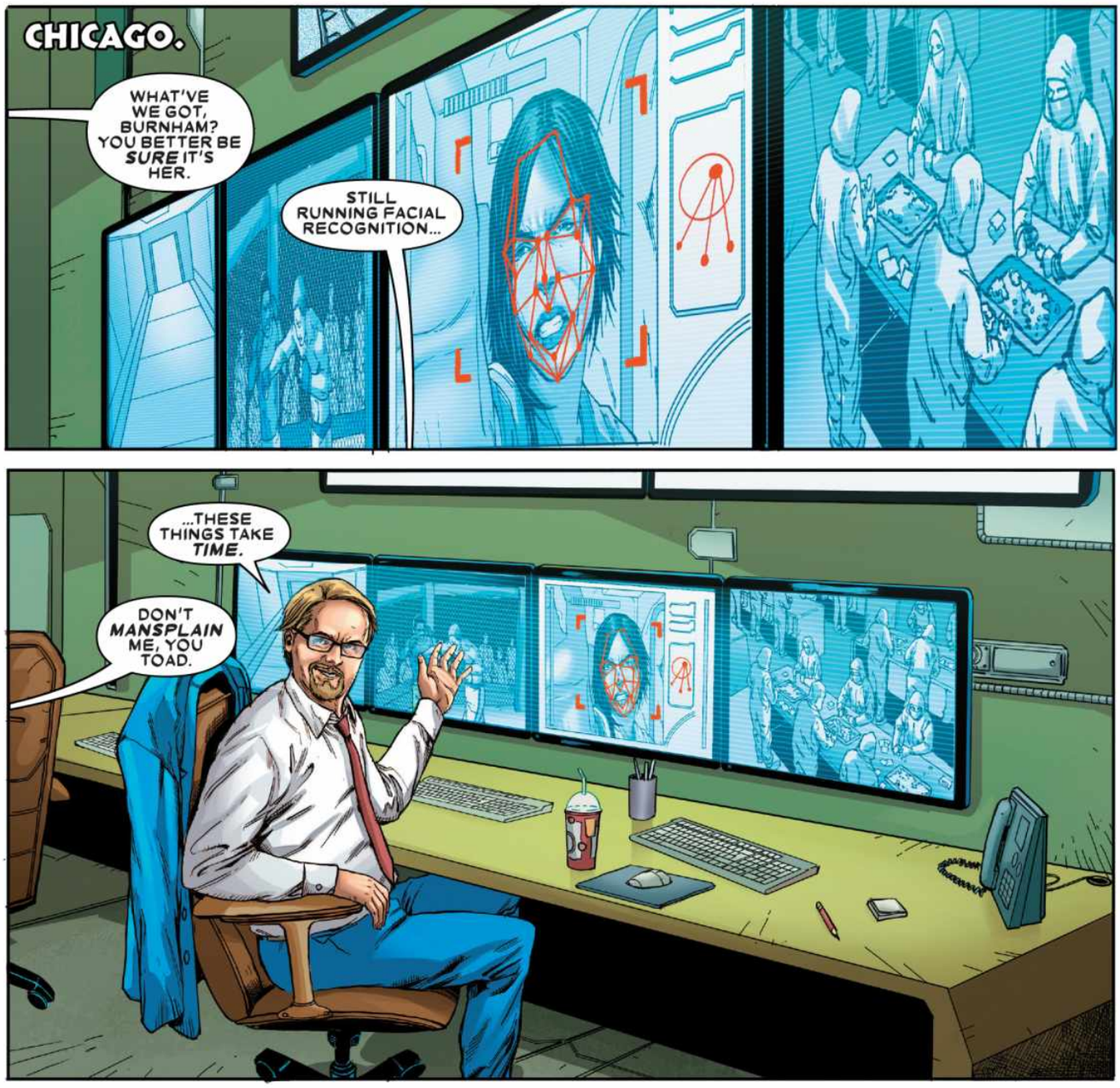
SNIKT
I DO NOT HAVE MUCH TIME.
SNAKT
I CAN HEAR RUBIN'S HEARTBEAT GETTING WEAKER...
SNIKT
SNIKT
...AND THERE IS MUCH GROUND TO COVER.

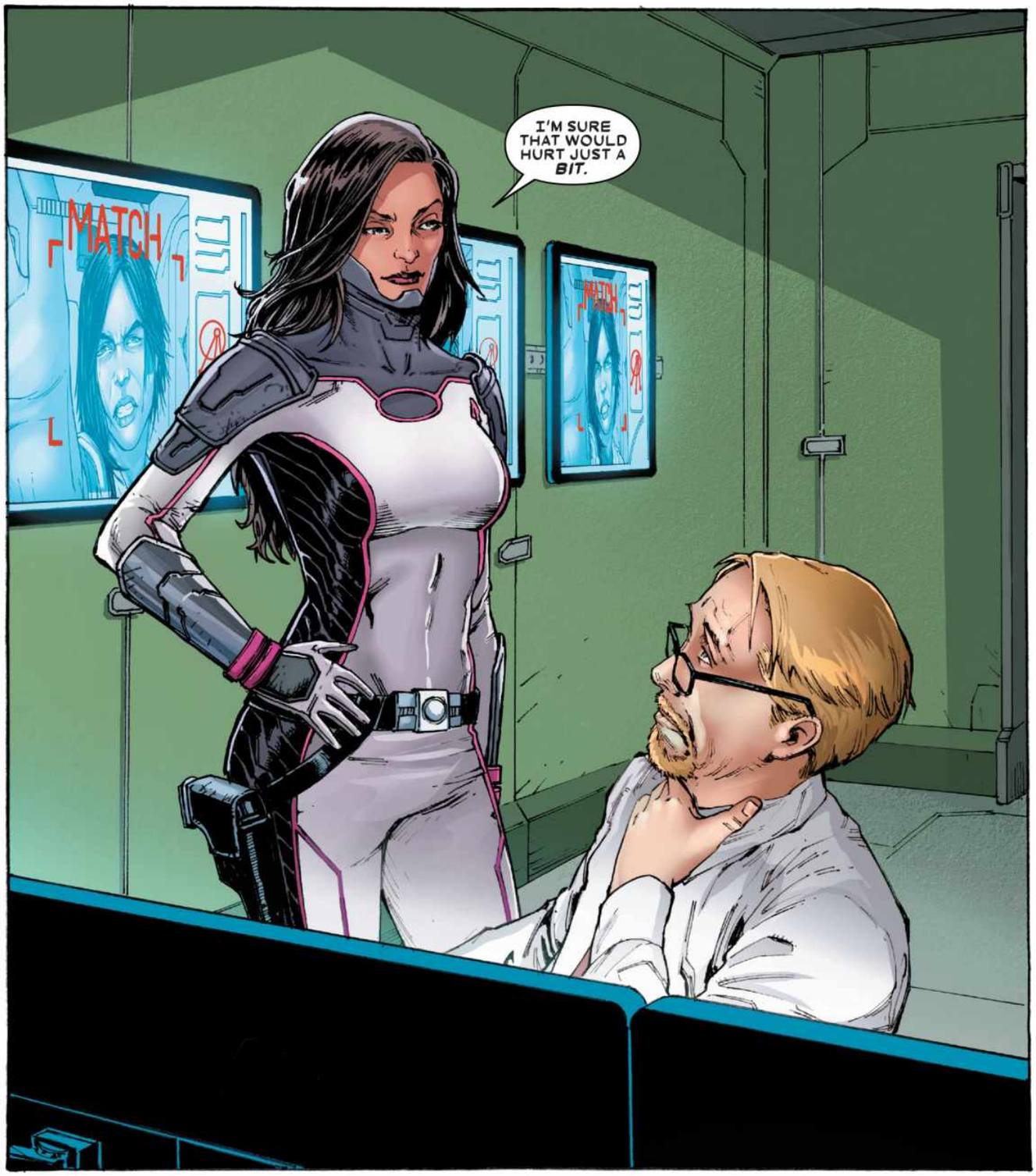
I WOULD YELL FOR HIM, BUT THE SMOKE BURNS MY THROAT.
BUT I CAN HEAR HIS BREATHING SLOWING...
=KOFF KAFF=
...AND HIS HEART GETTING EVEN WEAKER.
HE IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
SHNG
I MUST FOCUS ON THE HUNT... USE HIS WANING VITALS TO TRACK--
SHNG
THERE!
WE ARE =KOFF= LEAVING.
SLIII C

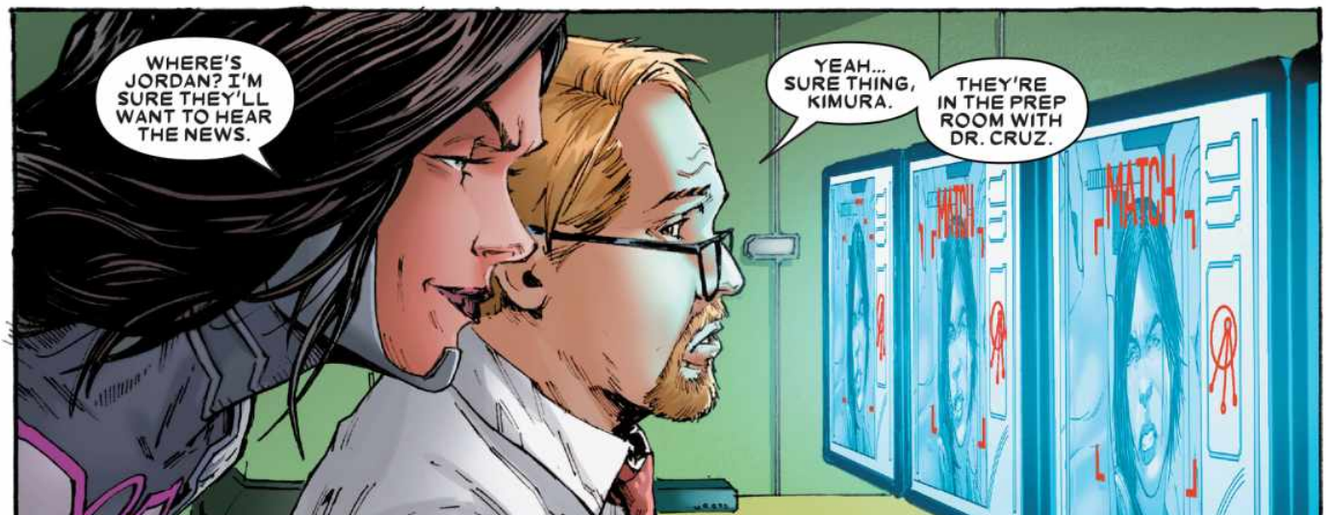
HOLY CRAP!
HE... NEEDS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

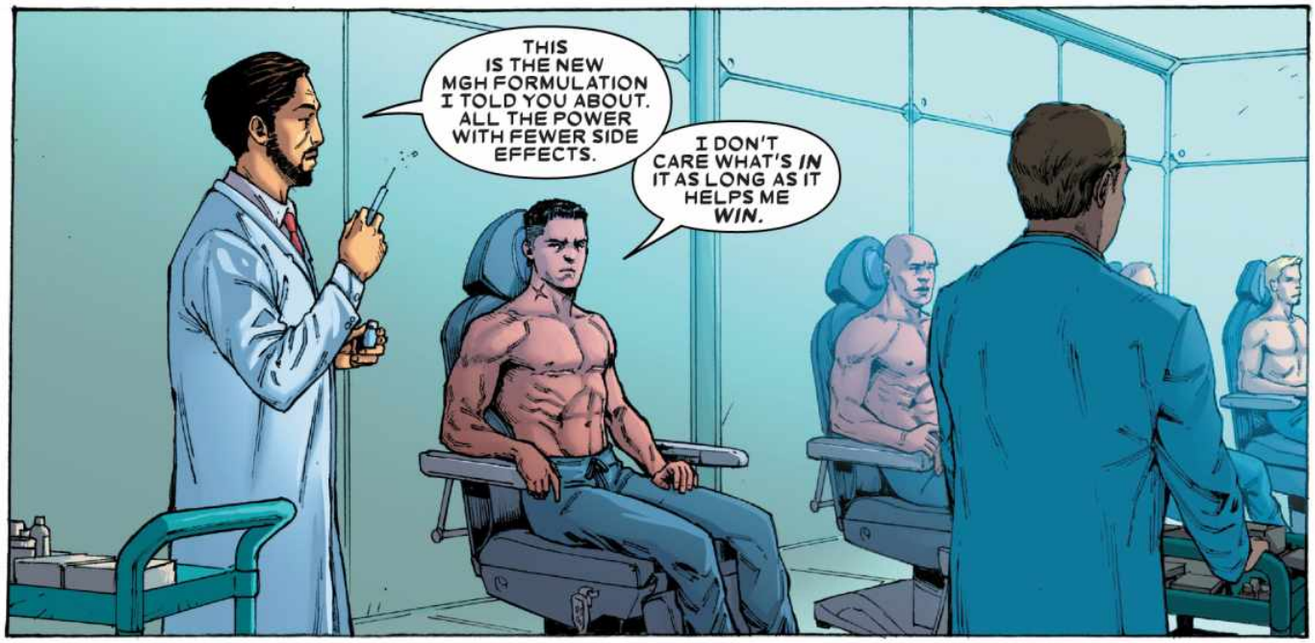
LATER.
THEY ARE WATCHING ME--ALL OF THEM--WITH SUSPICION.
I SHOULD GO.
I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP, MISS.
EVERYONE MADE IT OUT ALIVE, AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU.
I ONLY SAVED TWO PEOPLE.
"ONLY"?
YOU'RE A HERO.
I AM A HERO?
YOU'RE A MONSTER.
THAT'S WHY THEY MADE YOU.
YOU'RE THE BOOGEYMAN, KID.
AND YOU'RE GONNA DO WHAT ALL THE OTHERS COULDN'T.


I'LL, UH... LEAVE YOU ALONE. THANKS AGAIN.
THERE SHE IS!
00:00:00:00
2h45m
HI THERE, ANITA TRICK, CHANNEL SIX NEWS. JUST HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS.
I HAVE NOTHING TO--
WE'RE LIVE, KID.
I AM NOT COMFORTABLE TALKING WITH THE PRESS.
1920 x 1080
HD FPS
EVEN LOGAN HAS HAD "MEDIA TRAINING."
I'M HERE WITH THE SELFLESS YOUNG WOMAN WHO BRAVED THE FLAMES NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE!
BUT I AM NOT SO SURE IT WENT SO WELL.
WHAT MADE YOU FACE THIS TERRIBLE BLAZE TO SAVE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS?
PLEASE REMOVE THAT FROM MY FACE.
REC
00:00:23:08
2h45m
EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS SAY YOU HAD CLAWS, LIKE THE X-MAN WOLVERINE. ARE YOU RELATED
LEAVE ME ALONE.
HD FPS

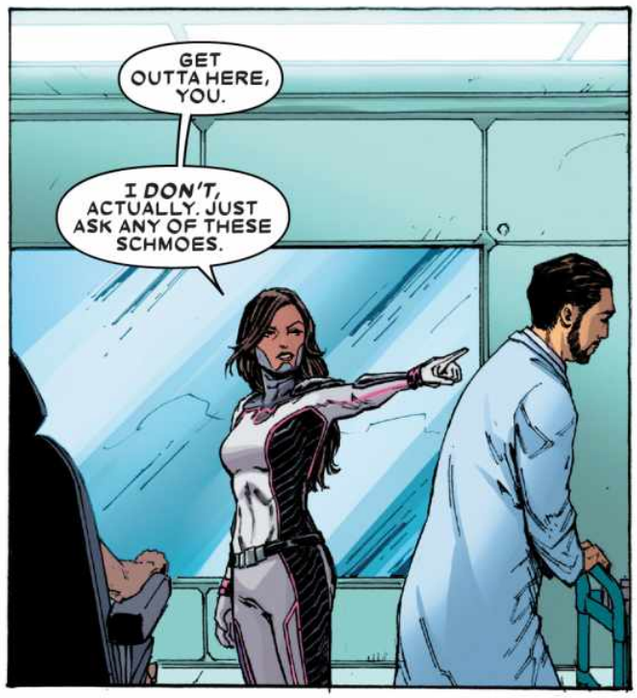

CHICAGO.
WHAT'VE WE GOT, BURNHAM? YOU BETTER BE *SURE* IT'S HER.
STILL RUNNING FACIAL RECOGNITION...
...THESE THINGS TAKE *TIME*.
DON'T *MANSPLAIN* ME, YOU TOAD.
MATCH
YAHTZEE! WE GOT HER, K.
MATCH
GOOD.
'CAUSE IT WOULD'VE SUCKED IF I HAD TO PHASE MY HAND THROUGH YOUR CHEST TO PULL YOUR *LUNGS* OUT.
ATCH
GULP


I'M SURE THAT WOULD HURT JUST A BIT.
MATCH


WHERE'S JORDAN? I'M SURE THEY'LL WANT TO HEAR THE NEWS.
YEAH... SURE THING, KIMURA.
THEY'RE IN THE PREP ROOM WITH DR. CRUZ.
MATCH


THIS IS THE NEW MGH FORMULATION I TOLD YOU ABOUT. ALL THE POWER WITH FEWER SIDE EFFECTS.
I DON'T CARE WHAT'S *IN* IT AS LONG AS IT HELPS ME *WIN*.

HEY, JORDAN. HOW'S MY *FAVORITE* BRAWLER DOING?
I KNOW YOU SAY THAT TO EVERYONE, KIMURA.


GET OUTTA HERE, YOU.
I *DON'T*, ACTUALLY. JUST ASK ANY OF THESE SCHMOES.

I *ALWAYS* PUT MY MONEY ON YOU.
SO ANY WORDS OF ADVICE BEFORE I GO OUT THERE?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK...

...LET'S TAKE A WALK.

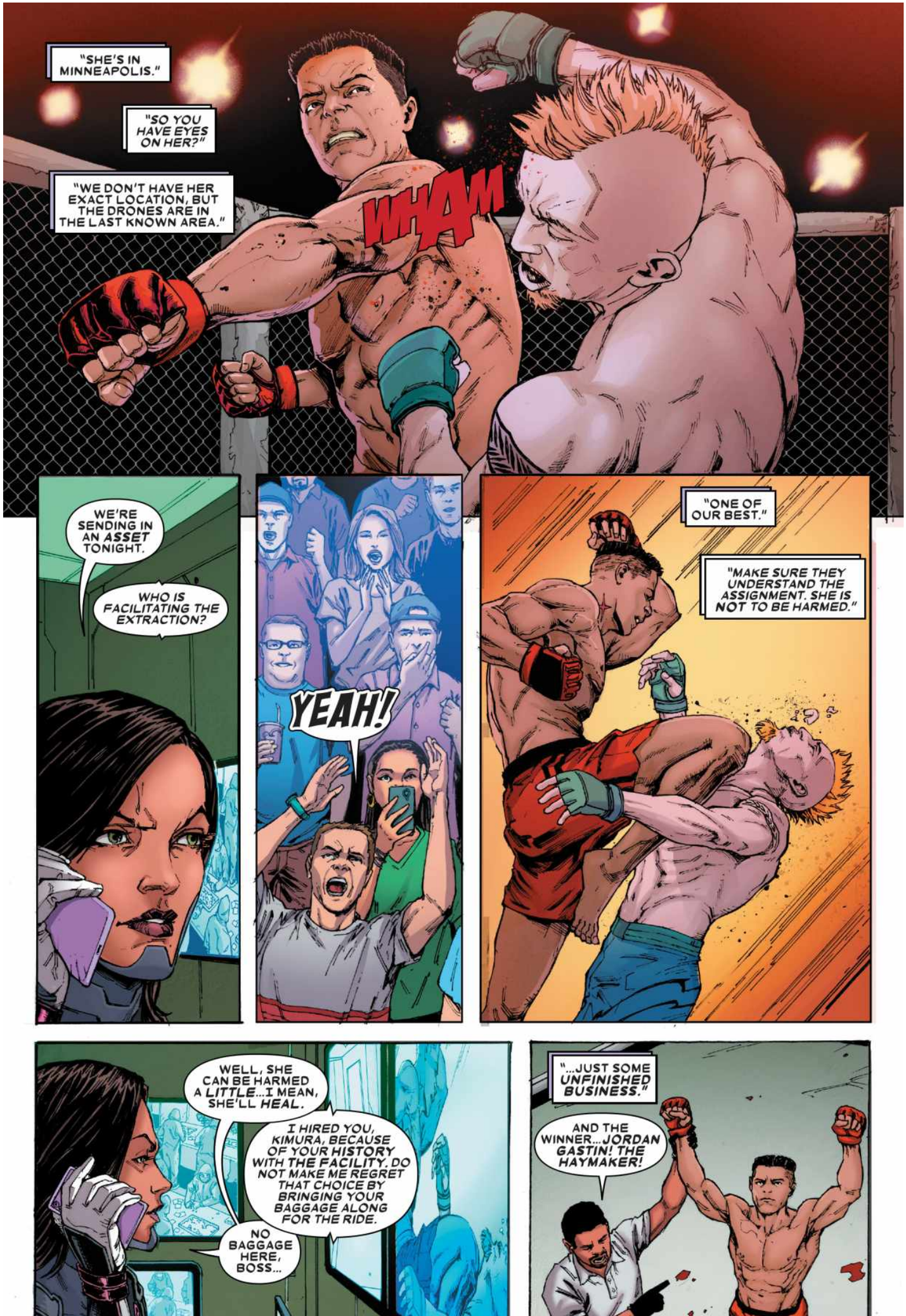
YOU'VE MADE THE BIG BOSS *VERY* HAPPY LATELY.
I'M SURE THIS OPERATION MAKES HIM MORE THAN WHAT *I* CAN WIN IN THE RING.
YOU DON'T GET IT. MONEY DOESN'T MATTER TO HIM. HE'S GOT ENOUGH OF THAT ALREADY.
HE VALUES LOYALTY...AND *RESULTS.*

HE GAVE YOU A CHANCE... *I* GAVE YOU A CHANCE.
WHEN I FOUND YOU, YOUR FIGHTING CAREER WAS IN THE #$%!&.
NO ONE WOULD TOUCH YOU AFTER THAT WHOLE FRANKIE FEAR FIASCO.

THAT *WASN'T* MY FAULT.
DREW GOT MIXED UP WITH SOME BAD PEOPLE, BUT HE WAS JUST TRYING TO *PROTECT* ME!
RELAX, JORDAN. SAVE THAT WRATH FOR THE RING.
WE BOTH KNOW WHO'S *REALLY* RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT NIGHT.

YEAH...
NOW GO OUT THERE AND KICK SOME ASS. I'LL HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YA LATER.

MAKE ME PROUD.
SEE YA ON THE OTHER SIDE, KIMURA.


"SHE'S IN MINNEAPOLIS."
"SO YOU HAVE EYES ON HER?"
"WE DON'T HAVE HER EXACT LOCATION, BUT THE DRONES ARE IN THE LAST KNOWN AREA."
WHAM
WE'RE SENDING IN AN ASSET TONIGHT.
WHO IS FACILITATING THE EXTRACTION?
YEAH!
"ONE OF OUR BEST."
"MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND THE ASSIGNMENT. SHE IS NOT TO BE HARMED."
WELL, SHE CAN BE HARMED A LITTLE...I MEAN, SHE'LL HEAL.
I HIRED YOU, KIMURA, BECAUSE OF YOUR HISTORY WITH THE FACILITY. DO NOT MAKE ME REGRET THAT CHOICE BY BRINGING YOUR BAGGAGE ALONG FOR THE RIDE.
NO BAGGAGE HERE, BOSS...
"...JUST SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS."
AND THE WINNER... JORDAN GASTIN! THE HAYMAKER!

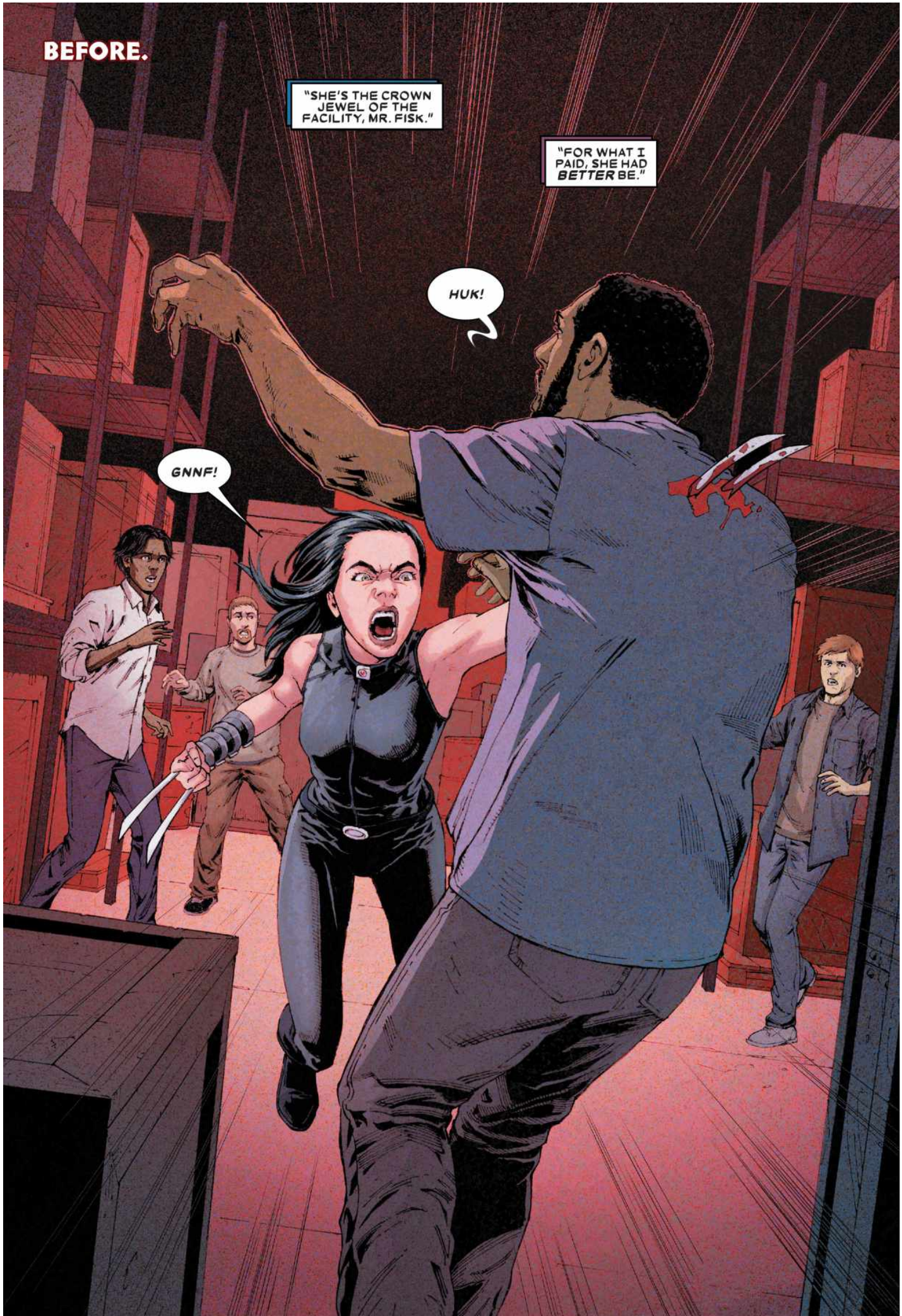
THERE THEY ARE!
YOU DID GREAT OUT THERE!
PANT THANKS.

I JUST NEED *PANT* TO CATCH MY BREATH.
SHOULD I GET DR. CRUZ FOR A BOOSTER?

'CAUSE I'M PRETTY SURE MY SURPRISE IS GONNA RECHARGE YOUR BATTERIES.

WE FOUND HER, JORDAN.
YOU MEAN--
YEP.

I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS.


BEFORE.
"SHE'S THE CROWN JEWEL OF THE FACILITY, MR. FISK."
"FOR WHAT I PAID, SHE HAD BETTER BE."
HUK!
GNNF!

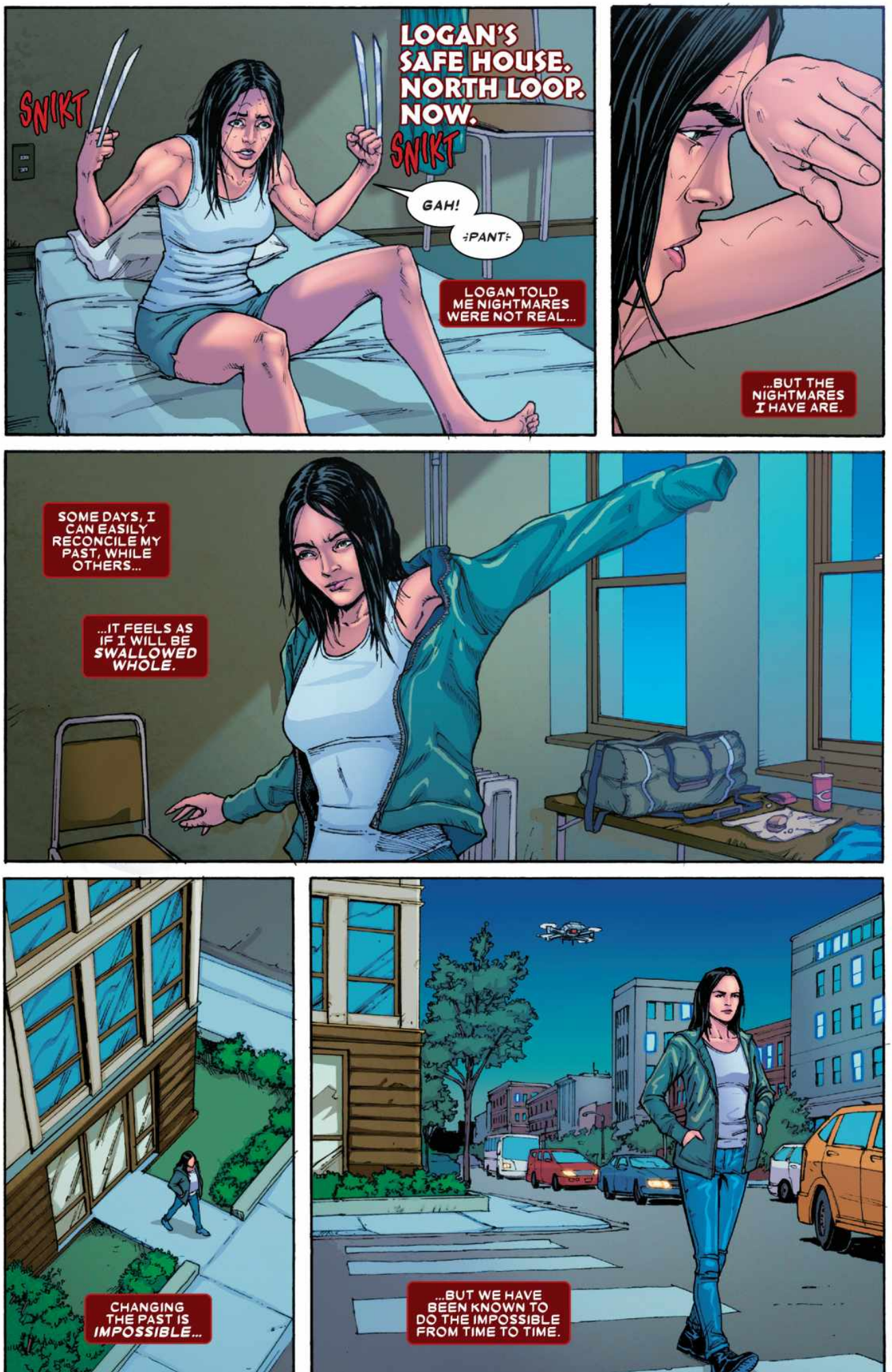
I KNOW A MAN OF YOUR MEANS HAS *MANY* OPTIONS AT HIS DISPOSAL, SO WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS.
IT IS TRUE... THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF ASSASSINS IN MY ROLODEX.

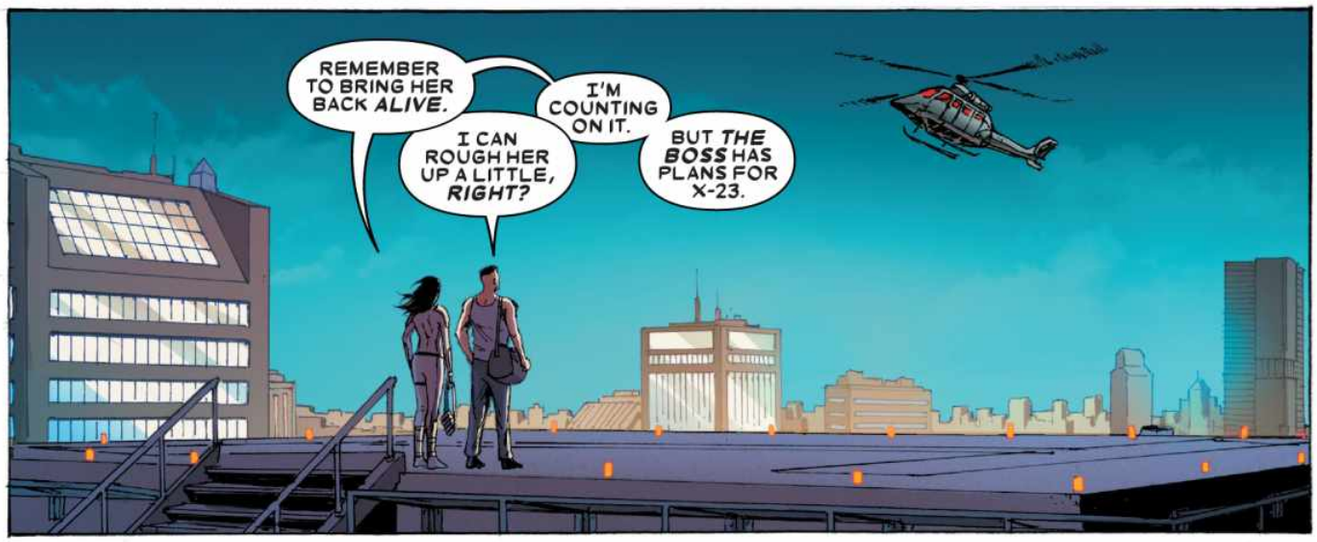
REC
UNNGH!
SLASH

SHE'S OUR LITTLE *PRODIGY.*
DON'T FORGET ALL THE *"CONDITIONING"* SHE GOT FROM ME, PROF.
WHAT AN #@$&%$!

"ALL THE CARRION MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO SEE IF FRANKIE FEAR IS THERE."
KRAK
"OUR RECON TEAM CONFIRMED HE WAS ON-SITE."

PLEASE...I JUST NEED THE EXTRA CASH TO HELP OUT MY SIBLING.
I'M NOT LIKE THE *REST* OF THEM.
SLICE
PLEASE -KAFF- LOOK AFTER J--
WELL, SHE CERTAINLY IS *THOROUGH*.
REC
LIKE I SAID...OUR *CROWN JEWEL*.


SNIKT
LOGAN'S SAFE HOUSE. NORTH LOOP. NOW.
SNIKT
GAH!
:PANT:
LOGAN TOLD ME NIGHTMARES WERE NOT REAL...
...BUT THE NIGHTMARES I HAVE ARE.
SOME DAYS, I CAN EASILY RECONCILE MY PAST, WHILE OTHERS...
...IT FEELS AS IF I WILL BE SWALLOWED WHOLE.
CHANGING THE PAST IS IMPOSSIBLE...
...BUT WE HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE FROM TIME TO TIME.


REMEMBER TO BRING HER BACK *ALIVE*.
I'M COUNTING ON IT.
I CAN ROUGH HER UP A LITTLE, *RIGHT?*
BUT *THE BOSS* HAS PLANS FOR X-23.

AND *I* HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS, TOO.
I GET IT.

HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING THE LAB RATS COOKED UP.
YOU'LL SEE...BUT IT'S *TEMPORARY*.
WHAT'S IT DO?
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DOSE HER MORE THAN ONCE.

AND KEEP YOUR MASK ON...IT'LL AFFECT YOU, TOO.
I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BEAT HER.
DON'T GET *COCKY*, JORDAN.

SHE'S TOUGHER THAN SHE LOOKS!

I DO NOT KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT JULIAN...
...I DO NOT KNOW HOW I *SHOULD* FEEL ABOUT HIM.
HE HAS EXPECTATIONS I CANNOT MEET.
CYCLOPS, MS. FROST...ALL THE MUTANTS ON UTOPIA DO.
...EVEN *STORM*.
THEY ALL EXPECT ME TO HEAL FROM ANY WOUND...
EVEN THOSE YOU *CANNOT SEE*.
IT IS NOT THAT SIMPLE.
SNIFF
SNIFF
IT CANNOT BE HER...

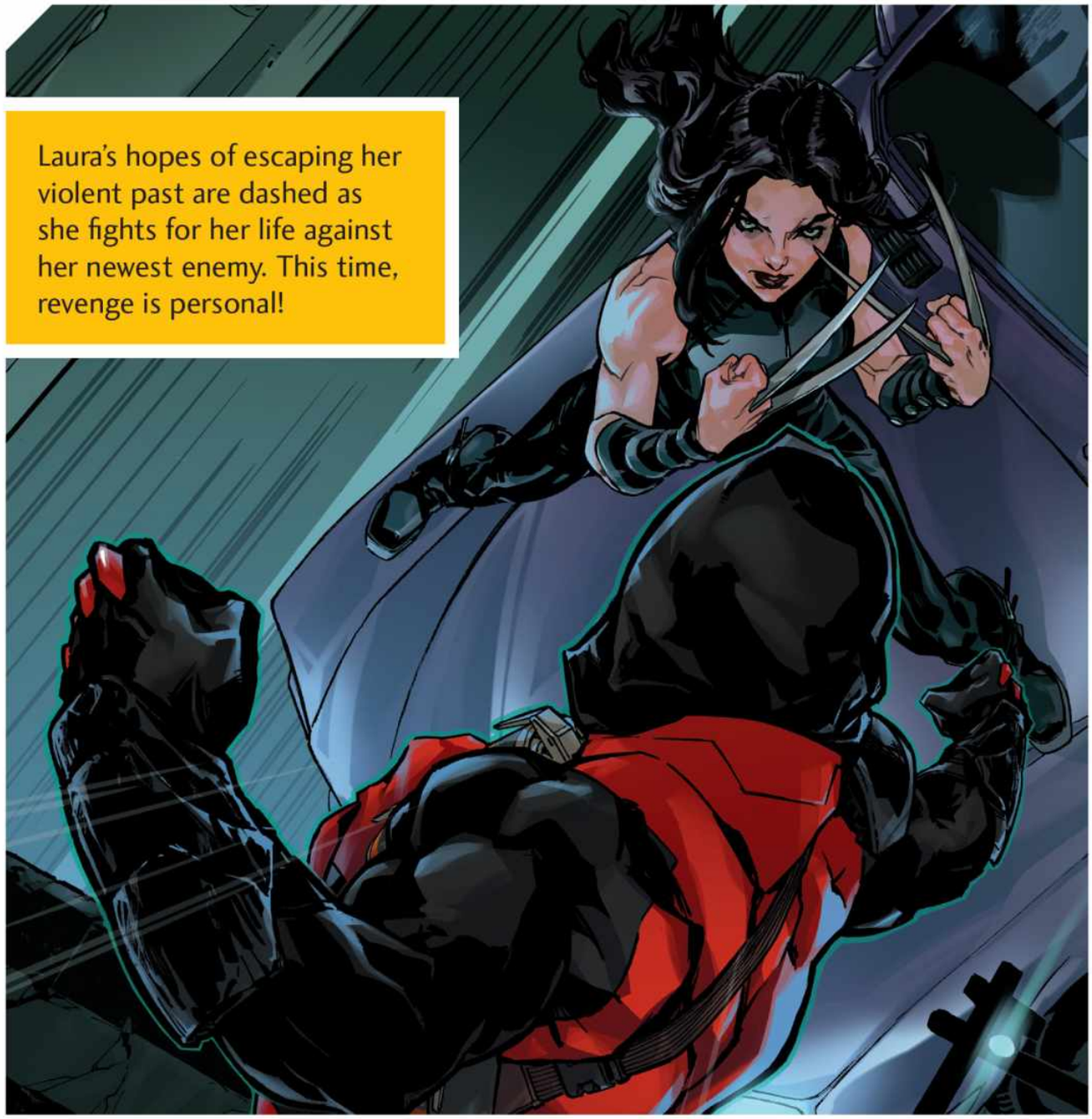
THAT DOES NOT LOOK LIKE KIMURA...
...BUT WHOEVER IT IS HAS HER SCENT ON THEM.
SNIKT
SNIKT
BOMB'S AWAY...
SLICE
FSSSSSSSSSS
KOFF KOFF
WHAT... IS THAT?

I CANNOT... BREATHE.
I...MUST TAKE A MOMENT... TO--
SNAKT
I...I AM NOT HEALING!
NO MATTER. I MUST FIGHT THROUGH IT.
WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
IT'S REAL SIMPLE, X-23...

...I'M HAYMAKER.
AND I WANT TO KILL YOU.
TO BE

NEXT...

X 23 DEADLY REGENESIS #2


Laura's hopes of escaping her violent past are dashed as she fights for her life against her newest enemy. This time, revenge is personal!

AKA [WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH]; **JAN BAZALDUA** [HAYMAKER DESIGN]; **ELENA CASAGRANDE** & **DAVID CURIEL** [STORMBREAKER]; **MIKE CHOI**; **PEACH MOMOKO** VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

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ZONE